

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A fuel cell system, comprising:
 - a fuel gas supply line that supplies fuel gas from a fuel gas supply source to the fuel cell;
 - pressure-regulating means provided on the fuel gas supply line and for regulating a pressure of the fuel gas supplied from the fuel gas supply source;
 - a circulation route that returns the fuel gas discharged from the fuel cell to the fuel gas supply line;
 - a fuel gas pump for circulating the fuel gas in the circulation route; and
 - a control unit for controlling the system,wherein the circulation route is connected to the fuel gas supply line at a connection point that is positioned between the fuel gas supply source and the pressure-regulating means such that the fuel gas is returned to the fuel gas supply line upstream of the pressure-regulating means and there is no pressure-regulating means on the fuel gas supply line upstream of the connection point, and
the control unit outputs a control signal to the fuel gas pump to control the fuel gas that is circulated in the circulation route.
2. (Previously Presented) The fuel cell system according to claim 1, wherein the pressure-regulating means is configured so as to regulate the pressure of the fuel gas in the fuel gas supply line by using a pressure of oxidation gas supplied to the fuel cell, the fuel cell system further comprising:
 - an oxidation gas supply line for supplying the oxidation gas supplied to a cathode of the fuel cell;

oxidation gas supply means provided in the oxidation gas supply line and for pressurizing and supplying the oxidation gas to the cathode;

cathode side pressure detection means for detecting the pressure of the oxidation gas supplied to the cathode of the fuel cell; and

anode side pressure detection means for detecting the pressure of the fuel gas supplied to an anode of the fuel cell, wherein

the control unit controls the pressure of gas supplied to the fuel cell from at least either the fuel gas supply line and the oxidation gas supply line, so that the differential pressure between the oxidation gas detected by the cathode side pressure detection means and the fuel gas detected by the anode side pressure detection means becomes within a predetermined range.

3. (Previously Presented) The fuel cell system according to claim 2, wherein the control unit controls at least either one of the oxidation gas supply means or the pressure-regulating means so that the differential pressure becomes within the predetermined range.

4-6. (Canceled)

7. (Original) The fuel cell system according to claim 2, wherein the cathode side pressure detection means estimates and detects the pressure of the oxidation gas on the basis of a drive amount of the oxidation gas supply means.

8. (Previously Presented) The fuel cell system according to claim 1, wherein the anode side pressure detection means estimates and detects the pressure of the fuel gas on the basis of a drive amount of the fuel gas pump.

9. (Previously Presented) The fuel cell system according to claim 3, further comprising oxidation gas pressure-regulating means which is separate from the pressure-regulating means and which is capable of controlling a pressure of the oxidation gas supplied

to an outlet side of the pressure-regulating means independently from the pressure of an inlet oxidize gas in the cathode side,

wherein when the pressure of the fuel gas is larger than the pressure of the oxidation gas, and the differential pressure therebetween is outside the predetermined range, the oxidation gas pressure-regulating means depressurizes the oxidation gas supplied to the pressure-regulating means, as a result of which the fuel gas in the anode side, which is regulated by the pressure-regulating means, is depressurized, whereby the differential pressure is reduced.

10. (Original) The fuel cell system according to claim 3, wherein when the pressure of the fuel gas is larger than the pressure of the oxidation gas, and the differential pressure therebetween is outside the predetermined range, the oxidation gas supply means pressurizes the oxidation gas supplied to the cathode side to reduce the differential pressure.

11. (Original) The fuel cell system according to claim 3, further comprising purge means for purging the fuel gas in the circulation route,

wherein when the pressure of the fuel gas is larger than the pressure of the oxidation gas, and the differential pressure therebetween is outside the predetermined range, the purge means depressurizes the fuel gas in the anode side to reduce the differential pressure.

12. (Previously Presented) The fuel cell system according to claim 3, further comprising oxidation gas pressure-regulating means that is separate from the pressure-regulating means and that is capable of controlling a pressure of the oxidation gas supplied to an outlet side of the pressure-regulating means independently from the pressure of an inlet oxidize gas in the cathode side,

wherein when the pressure of the oxidation gas is larger than the pressure of the fuel gas, and the differential pressure therebetween is outside the predetermined range, the

oxidation gas pressure-regulating means pressurizes the oxidation gas supplied to the pressure-regulating means, as a result of which the fuel gas in the anode side, which is regulated by the pressure-regulating means, is pressurized, whereby the differential pressure is reduced.

13. (Original) The fuel cell system according to claim 3, wherein when the pressure of the oxidation gas is larger than the pressure of the fuel gas, and the differential pressure therebetween is outside the predetermined range, the oxidation gas supplied to the cathode side is depressurized by the oxidation gas supply means so that the differential pressure is reduced.

14-16. (Canceled)